

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

PTO0120

E39

PAGE 01 CARACA 03637 01 OF 02 222318Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	A-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EB-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00
	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	ASDS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/007W			

-----0D5171 222318Z /30

R 191902Z NOV 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8563
INFO NSC WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 003637

NSC FOR POLAD
USCINCSO ALSO FOR LLORENS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/19/2012
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, VE
SUBJECT: GOV TAKES OVER METROPOLITIAN POLICE

REF: A. CARACAS 3244
B. CARACAS 3603
C. CARACAS 2670
D. CARACAS 3259
E. CARACAS 3369

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 03637 01 OF 02 222318Z

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. SHAPIRO FOR REASONS 1.5 (B)
AND (D)

SUMMARY

1) (C) INTERIOR MINISTER DIOSDADO CABELLO ORDERED THE
NATIONAL GUARD AND ARMY TO TAKE OVER THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE METROPOLITAN POLICE NOVEMBER 16 TO END A 45-DAY LABOR
STRIKE OF ROUGHLY 300 [REDACTED] WITHIN THE MP.
CABELLO NAMED EMIGDIO DELGADO AS THE NEW POLICE CHIEF,
REPLACING HENRY VIVAS. WHEN DELGADO RETURNED CONTROL OF THE
MP TO VIVAS AFTER A FEW HOURS, CABELLO THEN APPOINTED [REDACTED]

B1

B1

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 19 AUG 2004 200400111

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a

[REDACTED] GONZALO SANCHEZ DELGADO. MOST OF THE MP REMAINS LOYAL TO VIVAS AND CARACAS MAYOR ALFREDO PENA CHALLENGED THE TAKE-OVER IN THE SUPREME COURT, ARGUING THE MOVE IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL. END SUMMARY.

B1

CHAVEZ ACTS TO END THE STRIKE

2. (C) INTERIOR MINISTER DIOSDADO CABELLO ORDERED THE NATIONAL GUARD AND ARMY TO TAKE OVER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE NOVEMBER 16 TO END A 45-DAY LABOR STRIKE OF ROUGHLY 300 [REDACTED] WITHIN THE MP. CABELLO ALSO NAMED A NEW POLICE CHIEF, GONZALO SANCHEZ DELGADO. IN HIS WEEKLY ALTO PRESIDENT TELEVISION PROGRAM, PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ SAID THE TAKE-OVER WAS NECESSARY TO
CONFIDENTIAL

B1

PAGE 03 CARACA 03637 01 OF 02 222318Z
GUARANTEE PUBLIC ORDER DUE TO THE "INSTITUTIONAL CRISIS"
WITHIN THE MP. [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] THE STRIKING OFFICERS OCCUPIED THE CITY'S EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, WHICH COORDINATES FIRE, POLICE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS. A COURT RULED AGAINST STRIKING OFFERS IN OCTOBER, AUTHORIZING THE MP TO REMOVE THEM FROM THE PREMISES. ACCORDING TO PENA'S OFFICE, THE CITY CHOSE NOT TO ACT, FEARING A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION.

3. (SBU) ON NOVEMBER 12 THE STRIKING OFFICERS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS CLASHED WITH MP OFFICERS AND NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS (REFTEL B), RESULTING IN NINETEEN INJURIES AND TWO DEATHS. FOLLOWING THE VIOLENCE, THE ARMY ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF JOINT POLICE-MILITARY PATROLS TO RESTORE ORDER TO THE CITY. ON SUNDAY'S ALTO PRESIDENTE PROGRAM, CHAVEZ CITED THIS VIOLENCE TO JUSTIFY HIS ACTIONS. "WHAT HAS EMERGED ARE GROUPS THAT INSTEAD OF HELPING THE PUBLIC ORDER, ATTACKED THE POPULATION."

NEWLY APPOINTED COMMISSIONER REMAINS LOYAL TO PENA.

4. (C) ON NOVEMBER 16 CABELLO NAMED EMIGDIO DELGADO THE NEW MP CHIEF TO REPLACE HENRY VIVAS, A PENA APPOINTEE. LATER THAT DAY, DELGADO APPEARED AT GLOBOVISION TELEVISION STATION WITH VIVAS AND PENA TO RESIGN HIS POSITION. [REDACTED]

B1

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CARACA 03637 01 OF 02 222318Z

B1

A SECOND COMMISSIONER NAMED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ6132

PAGE 01 CARACA 03637 02 OF 02 222318Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	A-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EB-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00
	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	ASDS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/007W			

-----0D5178 222318Z /30

R 191902Z NOV 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8564
INFO NSC WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 003637

NSC FOR POLAD

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a

USCINCSO ALSO FOR LLORENS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/19/2012
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, VE
SUBJECT: GOV TAKES OVER METROPOLITIAN POLICE

6. (C) FOLLOWING DELGADO'S RESIGNATION, CABELLO NAMED A NEW
MP CHIEF, GONZALO SANCHEZ DELGADO. SANCHEZ IS A RETIRED
POLICE COMMISSAR

B1

CHAVEZ PRAISED DELGADO IN HIS ALO PRESIDENTE PROGRAM, SAYING
HE IS ONE OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED POLICE OFFICERS IN THE
ENTIRE COUNTRY.

B1

IS THIS LEGAL?

7. (SBU) OPPOSITION LEADERS, INCLUDING THE DEMOCRATIC
COORDINATING COMMITTEE (DCC) CRITICIZED THE TAKE-OVER. PENA
HAS BEEN THE MOST OUTSPOKEN, CALLING THE MOVE AN
UNCONSTITUTIONAL "SELF-COUP" BY CHAVEZ. NOVEMBER 18, PENA
ALSO FILED A LAWSUIT WITH THE SUPREME COURT CHALLENGING THE
TAKE-OVER. ACCORDING TO PENA, ARTICLE 332 OF THE
CONSTITUTION ESTABLISHES THE AUTONOMY OF THE METROPOLITAN
DISTRICT. BECAUSE OF THIS AUTONOMY, PENA ARGUES THAT THE
ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE DISTRICT--INCLUDING THE
APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE--FALL
UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MAYOR OF CARACAS, NOT THE PRESIDENT
OR THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AND JUSTICE (REFTEL C). A
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 03637 02 OF 02 222318Z
DECEMBER 2000 TSJ DECISION CONFIRMED THIS SEPARATION OF
POWERS.

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a

8. (SBU) ATTORNEY GENERAL ISAIAS RODRIGUEZ DEFENDED THE GOV
DECISION, SAYING THE COORDINATION LAW FOR PUBLIC SECURITY
ALLOWS THE MILITARY TO INTERVENE IN POLICE ADMINISTRATION IN
EXCEPTIONAL SITUATIONS TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER. RODRIGUEZ
SAID THE MINISTRY'S ACTIONS WILL BE VALID UNTIL THE TSJ
DECIDES OTHERWISE.

DECISION SPARKS PROTESTS

9. (SBU) HUNDREDS OF CHAVEZ OPPONENTS NOVEMBER 17 AND 18
PROTESTED THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS. NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS
USED TEAR GAS TO BREAK UP ONE DEMONSTRATION NOVEMBER 17 AT
THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE MP'S MOTORCYCLE BRIGADE, AND AGAIN ON
NOVEMBER 18 AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS WHO HAD BLOCKED PORTIONS OF
THE HIGHWAY ADJACENT TO LA CARLOTA AIRPORT.

COMMENT

B1

SHAPIRO

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED